THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) During the year 2004-05 there have been 197* consequential train accidents from April, 2004 to January, 2005, which include 12 collisions, 116 derailments, 5 manned level crossing gate accidents, 55 unmanned level crossing accidents, 8 fire in trains and 1 miscellaneous accident

(b) In these 197* accidents, 151* persons including 50* passengers were killed and 143* persons including 61* passengers sustained grievous injury. Compensation is paid after a claim is filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal, and a decree is awarded. No compensation has been paid so far. however, Rs. 70.34 lakhs have been paid as *ex-gratia* relief to the injured and to kith and kin of the deceased for the accidents occurring during 2004-05 (upto January, 2005).

(c) The loss suffered by Railways in these accidents has been Rs. 25.52 crores*

(d) Safety is the prime concern on Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken to prevent accidents. These measures include adoption of suitable and modem technologies for interlocking and signaling systems, upgradatjoh of standards of track and rolling stock, modernization of maintenance practices, replacement of over aged assets, upgradation of training aids like simulators, checks on observance of safety precautions and provision of Anti Collision Device. A Corporate Safety Plan (2003— 2013) has also been prepared and is followed.

Renovation of railway lines

580. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government carry out renovation work of railway lines each year;

(b) if so, the railway lines renovated (in Km.) during the last three years; and

(c) the details of amount spent in this regard, year-wise?

*Provisional figures

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Repair and maintenance of railway track in ail sections, is a continuous process. Maintenance works are carried out regularly depending upon the need for ensuring safety of traffic. Track is inspected regularly and corrective action taken promptly wherever required. Speed restrictions are also imposed for ensuring safety, if the situation so warrants. Track renewals are also undertaken depending upon the need of renewal and subject to availability of funds.

(b) and (c) The track renewals work done and expenditure incurred thereon, during the last three years, is as under:

Year	Track renewal done (in track kms)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crore)
2001-02	3620	2462.92
2002-03	4776	3297.71
2003-04	4986	3484.39

Illegal railway ticketing

581. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the illegal ticketing agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken by Government to check illegal ticketing; and

(d) the losses being incurred by Government due to this per annum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Some cases of illegal ticketing by touts have been detected during the course of checks conducted by the Railways Action is taken against such persons as per provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.

(c) In order to curb the activities of illegal black marketing of rail tickets, joint checks are conducted involvinq Commercial, Vigilance and Police

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.